

Hawaii MARINE

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Transforming DoD is ‘process’

Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Though he is charged with helping to lead the Defense Department’s transformation efforts into the 21st century, the commander of U.S. Joint Forces Command believes the word “transformation” can be a misleading term. “It indicates a beginning and an

end,” Navy Adm. Edmund P. Giambastiani Jr. said. “This is a constant process, and that’s why the word ‘transforming’ is actually a better word.”

Giambastiani, who also serves as NATO’s supreme allied commander for transformation, said that in the past 24 months alone the Defense Department has



seen continuing change in the way it does business. And that change has been “significant,” he said during a recent interview at his command’s headquarters in Norfolk, Va., for the Pentagon channel’s documentary “Facing the Future.”

“Inside the Defense Department, we are now trying to transform our-

selves, institutionalize the process and the product of change ... to make us faster, to make us capable, to make us more operationally available, to make us more expeditionary, to make us adaptable and flexible,” he said.

All of this encompasses the mission he is charged with at Joint Forces Command, often called DoD’s “transformation laboratory.”

There, a staff of military personnel, civilians and defense contractors devise ways to enhance the commanders’ capabilities by developing battlefield concepts, training joint forces, and making recommendations on how the services can better integrate their warfighting capabilities.

See DoD, A-7

1/12 strives to get pinpoint accuracy

Artillerymen ‘prepare for combat’

Cpl. Trevor M. Carlee
MCB Camp Butler

CAMP HANSEN, OKINAWA, Japan — When infantrymen need supporting fire during a combat scenario, and aerial support is unavailable, they call on artillerymen to get the job done.

After firing the first 155 mm howitzer round at the designated target, the Marines with the artillery unit adjust their sights, if necessary. Once the round is on target, the artillerymen are given the command, “fire for effect.”

Then, the artillerymen “unleash the reign of steel,” which means they fire the necessary number of rounds at the target to ensure the enemy is overcome, according to Gunnery Sgt. Kevin T. Bowman, a cannoneer.

Bowman was among fellow Marines of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, currently assigned to 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines, who conducted howitzer training at Camp Hansen from March 15 to 17.

Sixty-six Marines of the Hawaii-based battery rehearsed the standard operating procedure for providing indirect artillery support for infantry

units.

Although the training was conducted to help prepare the Marines for their upcoming deployment to exercise Cobra Gold ‘05, Bowman said, “Ultimately, we’re preparing for combat.”

The battery gunnery sergeant added that while this was only training, the Marines still needed to be precise because accuracy is paramount.

“The artillery round has a kill radius of 50 meters and a casualty radius of 150 meters,” Bowman explained. “So we need to be as accurate as possible and make sure we get the enemy and not our ground troops.”

The Marines spent the three-day exercise rehearsing all aspects of the unit’s responsibilities, according to the Riverdale, Md. native. From forward observation to weapon and vehicle mechanics, all of the battery’s military occupational specialties were rehearsed to effectively bring everything together.

“Up to the point of actually firing [the howitzers], this training is exactly the same as a live-fire exercise,”

See 1/12, A-7



Cpl. Eric R. Hopkins writes down the appropriate coordinates on the side of a howitzer at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, March 15. Hopkins was among his fellow Marines of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, currently assigned to 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines, who rehearsed the standard operating procedure for providing indirect artillery support for infantry units.



1st Lt. Tito M. Jones

During the first two weeks of Baker-Torch training, members of the Thailand Border Patrol Police learn the fundamentals of Marine Corps marksmanship. Staff Sgt. Jose R. Macoto (right) checks the grouping during a live-fire exercise.

MARFORPAC instructs Thailand Border Patrol

Sgt. Ryan E. O’Hare
Marine Forces Pacific

UDON THANI, Thailand — Using hand and arm signals, members of the unit silently maneuvered through the thick brush toward the boarded up farmhouse. They knew the general and two others were held hostage there after being kidnapped from their motorcade. Three assailants were also inside guarding them, waiting for the ransom demands to be met within the hour. If not — the executions would begin. The unit needed to get inside and secure the situation fast.

This was one of several scenarios that members of the Thailand Border Patrol Police were confronted with during their six-week training with the U.S. Marines in Udon Thani, Thailand.

The BPP as well as the U.S. Drug

Enforcement Administration requested the training, named Baker-Torch 05-2B, to sharpen the skills of their police officers in the region. It was designed to hone their techniques as well as gather new ones, to better increase their law enforcement skills.

The training, hosted by the Joint Interagency Task Force-West, took place at the BPP Battalion 24 headquarters and consisted of 40 students chosen from various police subdivisions around the area, as well as four translators.

U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific training officer, and Baker-Torch mission commander, Capt. Rommel R. Villagracia, led the instructor team, consisting of seven Marines, an Air Force senior master sergeant and one Navy corpsman.

“We were requested to come out here and teach battle skills training

to these police officers,” said Villagracia. “We put together a package using Marine Corps doctrine, consisting of marksmanship, land navigation, martial arts, small unit tactics, close quarters battle, and special reaction team training.”

Although the BPP has received U.S. military training in the past, this is the first time the Marines have been asked to instruct the school.

“When we came here we started from the beginning,” said Villagracia. “Much like Marine Corps boot camp, we wanted to start them off with the basics and build from there into more advanced training.”

The training schedule was specifically tailored to the needs of the BPP and situations they may

See THAILAND, A-4

CSSG-3 captures combat readiness training at Bellows

Devil Dogs complete 48-hour, real-world exercise

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Press Chief

MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA BELLOWES, WAIMANALO, Hawaii — The Marine Corps is reputed to have the most difficult training of all the branches of the military. From boot camp to annual combat exercises in the field, Marines receive the most rigorous real-life training on a continuous basis throughout their military careers.

Maintenance Company, Combat Service Support Group 3, recently took the highest level of training and preparedness one step further by adding a unique element, particular to their unit.

CSSG-3 Marines not only continued to perform their primary duties during the execution of their annual training, they reinforced the original training event by adding a 48-hour-long exercise which they thought would better prepared them for real-life combat.

“We get annual training, and that is good for

retention of the skills Marines need to know in combat areas,” said Sgt. Gordon R. Davis-Chavez, platoon sergeant, Maintenance Company, CSSG-3, “but they don’t get a chance to brush up on those skills as often as they should. There are situations in combat that these Marines wouldn’t quite be ready for — so we added more intense training and made it more combat realistic.”

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Eleazar N. Oliva, commanding officer, Maintenance Company, CSSG-3, explained that Marines from Maintenance Company received recommendations for specific scenarios from Marines who had already been in combat areas. The Marines who had been deployed overseas explained what areas they thought the Marines should focus on and receive more training in, in the event they too were to deploy. That is where the idea for the scenario-based training originated.

According to Davis-Chavez, an El Paso, Texas native, for one week, the Marines participated in two evolutions of 48-hour-long training exercise. The Marines were allotted two hours of sleep during their two-day excursion to add sleep deprivation for a more realistic approach to the training.

The physical portion of their training consist-

ed of field medical training, day and night land navigation, and patrolling through the woods of Marine Corps Training Area Bellows. The final event of the evolution consisted of a force-on-force combat version of “capture the flag.” Two teams faced off against each other with flak jackets, Kevlars, facemasks and the kicker — M16-A2 service rifles and M9 mm pistols with orange and blue simulation rounds.

“We wanted the Marines to know where they were shooting and where they were hit during the exercise,” explained Davis-Chavez.

The teams formed up at either end of a field that was littered with cement blocks and slabs. At each end of the field was a colored flag that represented the flag of the respective team’s commanding officer. The object of the exercise was to gain possession of the other team’s flag — without getting shot.

“It was very effective training,” said Sgt. Matthew J. Raica, quality control personnel, Motor Transportation Maintenance Platoon, Maintenance Company, CSSG-3. “We got the full effect because when you got shot you could actually see and imagine the damage the round would have done. It was good training.”

See CSSG-3, A-5



Pfc. Roger L. Nelson

A Marine assigned to Maintenance Company, CSSG-3, raises his rifle above his head to simulate being a casualty during the combat version of “capture the flag,” March 24.

NEWS BRIEFS

State Alert to Sound Today

The State Civil Defense monthly test of sirens and the Emergency Alert System will be sounded today at 11:45 a.m. The siren test is a steady 45-second tone used to alert the public of emergencies that pose or may pose a threat to life and property.

UH Plans Algae Clean-up

The University of Hawaii Scientific Diving certification class is looking for volunteers to help continue to remove alien algae from our coral reefs. Thus far, more than 85 tons of the alien limu *Gracilaria salicornia* have been removed from Waikiki, but it is important to keep up the effort. Volunteers are invited to come down to Waikiki Marine Life Conservation District (Natatorium) Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. to help preserve Hawaii's unique marine ecosystem and make a difference in the quality of our ocean life. For those who plan to help out in the water, be sure to bring snorkeling gear and wear "reef walkers" or old tennis shoes for foot protection. Don't forget a hat and some sunscreen.

For information on how to volunteer, contact Signe Opheim at 779-2616 or opheim@hawaii.edu.

Change in Commissary Operating Hours for Tuesday

The Commissary will be opened at noon on Tuesday, instead of the usual opening time of 9:30 a.m. and will close as usual at 7 p.m, in order for commissary personnel to conduct their annual formal inventory.

Power Outage will Affect Housing

Due to the construction of the 212 unit family housing project, there will be an electrical outage on Wednesday. The outage is required to install new electrical lines for the new housing project. It is estimated that the outage will last for eight hours, beginning at 8 a.m. All efforts will be made to reduce the length of the outage as much as possible. Base Facilities apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.

Below is a list of the affected buildings and their respective tenants:

- CSSG-3: Building 4088
- HQBN: Buildings 1294, 1303, 1520, 1577, 1578, 1584, 1592, 1600, 4056, 4057 and 6507
- MCCS: Buildings 1667 and 5082
- Supply Department: Buildings 1383, 1384, and 1509 to 1518, 1538, 1544, and 1586 to 1589
- Facilities Department: Buildings 1566 and 1597
- Base Housing: Rainbow and Capehart numbers 1700 through 2689 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. A newsletter will be sent out informing the residents.

49th Annual Excellence in Federal Government Awards Luncheon

Marines and civilian employees from MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, will be recognized at the 2005 Excellence in Federal Government Awards Luncheon, June 8 at 10:45 a.m. in the Hawaii Ballroom of the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel.

To attend the event, pick up tickets through May 11 in Building 216, Room 6. The ticket price of \$26 includes tax and gratuity. Validated parking will be available at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel.

For more information, contact Charles McTee at 257-8807.

Read the Hawaii Marine Online

To access the *Hawaii Marine* online, log on to www.mcbh.usmc.mil and click on the "Hawaii Marine Newspaper on-line" link. The current newspaper and past issues, are available.

Important Phone Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	257-9111
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380

Hawaii MARINE

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Base Sergeant Major	Sgt. Maj. Anthony E. Franks
Public Affairs Officer	Maj. Patricia Johnson
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Staff Writer	Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
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Staff Writer	Pfc. Roger L. Nelson
Lifestyles and On Point Editor	Susana Choy
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Wal-Mart helps sell the Corps

Staff Sgt. Marc Ayalin

Marine Corps Recruiting Command

MARINE CORPS RECRUITING COMMAND, QUANTICO, Va. — The next time shoppers at Wal-Mart are out looking for a new television, they shouldn't be surprised to see a few Marines in their combat utilities in the home theater department.

No, it's not a military exercise. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. recently approved the airing of two Marine Corps public service announcements, "Family Photos" and "For Country." Both spots highlight the efforts of Marines and veterans who have made contributions to the Corps' legacy.

During the spring and summer, viewers will have the opportunity to see the PSAs played daily along a wall of televisions in the home theater department and on separate televisions located throughout each store.

Each PSA will be played every hour from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., in 2,600 stores nationwide. The "Family Photos" PSA will play now through April 17. The second PSA, "For Country," will air from May 16 to June 12 and then again from July 11 to Aug. 7.

"This is a giant step for the Marine Corps and a first in terms of using in-store television networks as a means of increasing positive awareness about the contributions of

Marines and providing information about opportunities for public service," said Capt. Maxwell Boucher, project marketing officer, Advertising Section, Marine Corps Recruiting Command, Quantico. "There are a lot of Americans going to Wal-Mart these days, and now we have the ability to share our story with them in a very direct and visible way."

The idea of telling the Marine Corps story through in-store television networks initially came from the 9th Marine Corps Recruiting District's Recruitment Advertising Officer, Capt. Tyler T. Vance, during a marketing conference held last November.

By coordinating with Wal-Mart television representatives, Vance was able to secure an agreement that would show-

case the Corps and provide Wal-Mart the opportunity to continue community support efforts for military service members.

Supporting the military service member is a subject that Wal-Mart feels is an important message to share with communities across America. According to Dan Fogleman, spokesperson for Wal-Mart, messages of pride and patriotism seen in the PSAs are a good fit with the company's values and supports their belief and desire in supporting the military.

"Wal-Mart wants to publicly recognize the service, sacrifice and commitment that our service men and women have contributed to our country," Fogleman said.

Military support is nothing new for Wal-Mart. Sam Walton, an Army intelligence officer during World War II, founded the company on the ideals of respect, quality of life, opportunity and freedom. The 43-year-old company and its associates have been strong supporters of the military by raising awareness about the sacrifices and contributions of U.S. service members and their families.

"It's good to share this message not only with our customers and associates but with those families whose loved ones are serving their country and standing for what they believe in," Fogleman said.

The airings of the PSAs seem to be striking a chord in the hearts of Americans.

"I think it's great that Wal-Mart is recognizing our military service members for their contributions," said Bill G. Harmon, a Stafford, Va. resident. "I really liked the part of the Marine public service announcement where the mother showed her son's picture and how proudly she held it."

"Wal-Mart is an American institution and it's good to see they care — it's what America is all about," said Gunnery Sgt. Rosendo Deleon, staff non-commissioned officer-in-charge of Recruiting Substation Temple Terrace, Tampa, Fla. "In today's society it is important to serve your country, and I am thankful Wal-Mart recognizes that through their actions in supporting our troops."

Passing the flag



Petty Officer 2nd Class Jennifer L. Bailey

Master Chief Brian Hughes (left), command master chief, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Two, smiles proudly beside Master Chief Maurice Radke, command master chief, Command Pacific Fleet, March 25, during a change of office ceremony at the John W. Finn Building. Hughes was the former command master chief of Patrol Squadron 47.



Staff Sgt. Marc Ayalin

Bill G. Harmon, a Virginia native, stops to watch the U.S. Marine Corps' "Family Photos" public service announcement at Wal-Mart's home theater section in Stafford, Va.

Congratulations in order



Lt. j.g. Brian Hansen

Petty Officer 2nd Class Jerry C. Fullerton, an aviation warfare systems operator (air warfare), is congratulated by Capt. William F. Moran, commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Two, on his selection as the squadron's Junior Sailor of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2005. Fullerton earned this distinction through selfless devotion to duty that included assisting in the advancement of four subordinates, as well as the superb training of 15 non-acoustic operators for overland combat operations. He also assisted seven of his fellow squadron members achieve a career milestone by helping them qualify as Aviation Warfare Specialists. Fullerton is currently assigned to Patrol Squadron Nine, home-based at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Weekend weather outlook

Today



Day — Mostly cloudy skies, northeasterly winds, 10-12 mph with gusts of 20 mph

Night — Mostly cloudy skies with scattered rain showers, northeasterly winds, 8-12 mph

High — 78
Low — 71

Saturday



Day — Mostly cloudy skies with isolated rain showers, becoming partly cloudy, easterly winds, 10-15 mph with gusts of 25 mph

Night — Partly cloudy then mostly cloudy skies, easterly winds, 10-15 mph with gusts of 20 mph

High — 77
Low — 69

Sunday



Day — Mostly cloudy skies then partly cloudy skies, easterly winds, 10-12 mph with gusts of 18 mph

Night — Partly cloudy skies becoming mostly cloudy with late evening rain showers, easterly to northeasterly winds, 8-12 mph with gusts of 20 mph

High — 79
Low — 71

Marine Forces Pacific Band Schedule

Today, 3 p.m.

MAJS-24 Retirement Ceremony
Ceremonial Band, Kaneohe Bay Flight Line

April 15, 10 a.m.

3rd Marines Retirement Ceremony
Ceremonial Band, Pacific War Memorial

April 16, 9:30 a.m.

Art in the Park
Dixie Band, Child Development Center

April 19, 4 p.m.

Volunteer Recognition Ceremony
Ceremonial Band, Base Theatre

April 25, 11 a.m.

ANZAC Day Memorial
Ceremonial Band, National Memorial of the Pacific

April 25, 5:30 p.m.

Art in the Park
Dixie Band, Child Development Center

The Marine Forces Pacific Band schedule of performances can be found on the Web at www.mfp.usmc.mil/mfpband/main.html.



Lance Cpl. Juan M. Garcia, infantryman, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, from Houston, Texas, tries to coax "Rosy" with hay, while Pfc. Mario A. Anes, infantryman, 2/3, from McAllen, Texas, tugs on her halter and lead line. "Trying to move a 1,200-pound mule that doesn't want to move is a real pain," said Anes.

As STUBBORN as a mule

Mountain warfare teaches 'packing'

Story and Photos By Sgt. Robert M. Storm

Combat Correspondent

MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER, BRIDGEPORT, Calif. — While many Marines feel like pack animals whenever they have to hike with full gear, Marines who take the Pack Master Course at the Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif., know differently.

"We teach Marines how to use pack animals as an alternate means to transport equipment when ground vehicles or air support is not a feasible option," explained Staff Sgt. Todd A. Lewis, head instructor, PMC.

The factors that can dictate the use of pack animals are many. In many countries, roads are generally poor or simply may not exist. In countries that have heavy rain, many roads may become impassable.

"The animals would be used in areas like high mountains and when inclement weather would interfere with travel. We teach them on mules, because anywhere a Marine can go, so can a mule," said Lewis, an Eaton, Colo., resident.

The Marine Corps used pack animals from its inception until 1953, when the last pack mule was retired. In 1983, The

Marine Corps started a program to test the value of pack animals. Originally, the program was only to last three to five years, but the success of the course resulted in its continuation at MWTC. The program taught at MWTC is currently the only one of its kind in the Department of Defense. The course is taught at MWTC to simulate the difficulties of mountainous terrain; additionally, PMC has other challenges — as the mules sometimes don't respond to orders.

"The animals are fun to watch, we have a mule named Gray who is a third award lance corporal. He likes to unlock the pens and let all the other mules loose and then stand in the middle of the gate and watch us," said Sgt. Earl R. Roberts, instructor, PMC, and resident of Asheville, N.C. "He also likes to get the herd running in a circle then hide and jump out and knock over the lead mule so that they all fall down into a big pile-up."

While almost any animal can be trained to pack, the Marine Corps use nine basic pack species: Dog, elephant, llama, camel, horse, ox, donkey, mule and even reindeer. While every animal is different, basic mule-packing skills are needed to pack any other species. Consideration for each animal is slightly different for pack weights due to animal size and strength. Dogs can carry half their body weight not to exceed 35 pounds, while elephants can carry 1,000 pounds or pull several tons. The mules that the Marines train with can pack a third of their body weight and the average mule weighs 1,100 pounds.

"Logistically, the mules are an asset. With just a little care, they will haul a load until the day that they die," said Roberts. "They can graze and water in the wild and are easier maintenance than a motor vehicle."

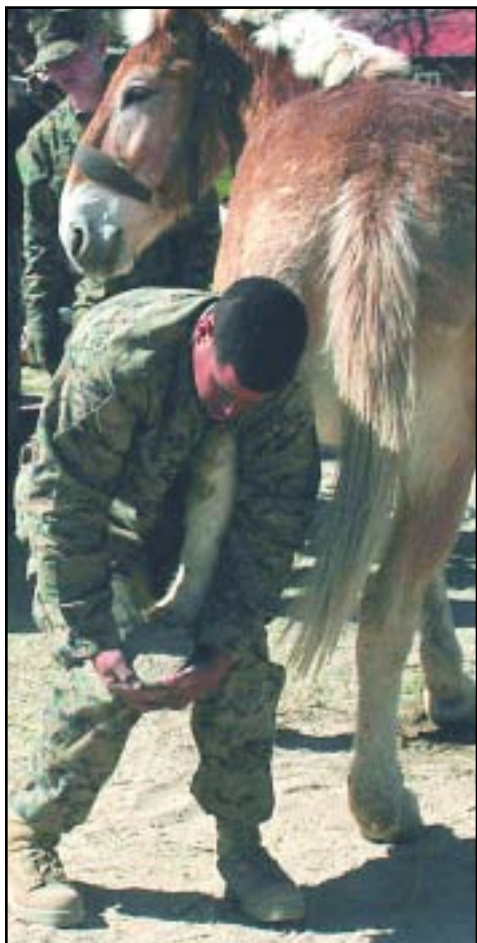
Marines who take the course are taught many of the basics of animal care. Feeding, grooming, and types of equipment utilized and proper care and use are included in the many classes. The course even includes some basic horsemanship lessons to give the Marines familiarity with riding. The training is essential to help the Marines understand the capabilities of the animals. For many of the Marines this is a unique experience and something different from



Staff Sgt. Todd A. Lewis, head instructor, Pack Masters Course, runs "Split Ear" to calm him down. "The horses can tell when the Marines are nervous, and it makes them nervous, so we have to run the energy out of him a little."

the normal type of infantry training.

"It isn't as easy as it looks," said Cpl. Edilberto Fernandez, infantryman, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, from St. Cloud, Fla. "This is my first experience like this. I never expected to be playing with mules in the mountains when I joined the Marine Corps. It's a lot different from the usual 'I'm up; they see me; I'm down' training we do."



Cpl. Edilberto Fernandez, infantryman, 2/3, from St. Cloud, Fla., practices using a hoof pick to clean a mule's hoof of debris.



Above — Lance Cpl. Thomas D. Weiss, facilities clerk, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, from Neptune, N.J., checks the teeth of his mule in an effort to determine its age. An experienced horseman can tell a lot from an animal's teeth such as age and general health.

Right — Pfc. Mike J. Garber, mortarman, 2/3, from Santa Cruz, Calif., chases "Rosie" around the pen, trying to harness her. Laughingly, the Marines spent a long time trying to chase down and corner their mules.



Salutes

Returned from deployment

Lt. Col. John F. Havranek, 41
Staff Judge Advocate
Headquarters Company, CSSG-3, FAP to MCB Hawaii
Hometown: Freemont, Neb.
Deployment location/date returned: Iraq/March 25
Awards: National Defense, GWOTEM, GWOTSM,
Certificate of Appreciation

Sgt. Russell L. Bridges II, 26
Combat Engineer
Headquarters & Service Company,
Headquarters Battalion
Hometown: Jerseyville, Ill. and Mount Vernon, Ill.
Deployment location/dates: Iraq/24th MEU/Aug. 27, 2004 – March 8
Awards: Good Conduct, Sea Service Deployment (3), GWOTEM, GWOTSM, National Defense, Armed Forces Service, Armed Forces Expeditionary, COA, LOA, Meritorious Mast (3)

Sgt. Michael D. Grant, 29
Combat Engineer
MCCS, Headquarters & Service Company,
Headquarters Battalion
Hometown: Noble, Okla.
Deployment location: Iraq
Awards: Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (3), GWOTEM, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (2), GWOTSM (2), National Defense Service Medal, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Certificate Of Commendation (3), Letter Of Appreciation (7)

Cpl. Denise Duncan, 23
Aviation Ops Clerk
C-20, Marine Corps Air Facility
Hometown: Manhattan, N.Y.
Deployment location/date returned: Iraq/March 17
Awards: National Defense, Good Conduct, NUC, PUC, GWOTEM, GWOTSM

Return from Deployment Corrections

Gunnery Sgt. Jose C. Romero, 34
Internal Control SNCOIC
Headquarters & Service Company,
Headquarters Battalion
Hometown: Carol Stream, Ill.
Deployment location/dates: Iraq/IMEF 1FSSG/March 4, 2004 – Feb. 25
Awards: NavyCom (3), NAM (4), Good Conduct (4), GWOTSM (2), Korean Defense, GWOTEM, Sea Service Deployment (6), National Defense (2), NUC, LOA (5), CerCom (4), COA

Staff Sgt. George A. Revenaugh, 34
Retail Purchasing
Headquarters & Service Company,
Headquarters Battalion
Hometown: Missoula, Mont.
Deployment dates: Sept. 8, 2004 – March 14
Awards: Good Conduct (4), NAM, NavyCom, GWOTSM, GWOTEM, Korean Defense, MC Recruiting Ribbon, National Defense (2), Sea Service Deployment, NUC, Certificate Of Commendation (6), LOA (3), Meritorious Mast (12), COA

To submit information for “Salutes,” send an e-mail to editor@hawaiimarine.com or call 257-8836.

Awards

Capt. Harry A. Bailey Jr., 35
Company Commander
Military Police Company, Headquarters Battalion
Hometown: Houston, Ga.
Award received/date: Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal/Feb. 28
Other Awards: GWOTSM, GWOTEM, National Defense Service Medal (2), Sea Service Deployment Ribbon Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Meritorious Mast, Certificate Of Commendation

Sgt. Florencio Bermudez, 24
Assistant Range Management Chief
G-3, Headquarters Battalion
Hometown: El Paso, Texas
Award received/date: Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal/March 17
Other Awards: Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (2), GWOTSM, National Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (2), Letter Of Appreciation, Certificate Of Commendation

Sgt. Kenyada M. Fore, 26
Traffic Management Specialist
TMO, Headquarters Battalion
Hometown: Prince Edward, Va.
Award received/date: Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal/March 22
Other Awards: Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (2), GWOTSM National Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Certificate Of Commendation (3), Letter of Appreciation (2)

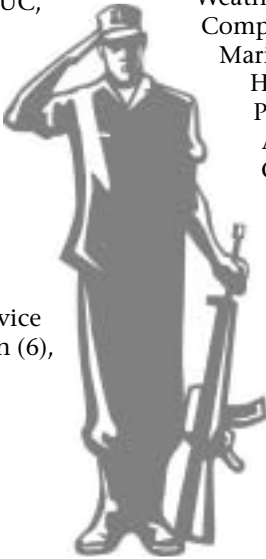
Cpl. Samuel Mink, 21
P-19 Crewchief, Rescueman
Air Rescue and Fire Fighting, Marine Corps Air Facility
Hometown: Tyler, Texas
Award received: Good Conduct

Lance Cpl. Keith Oleneack, 22
Operations Clerk/Loadmaster
VMR DET, Marine Corps Air Facility
Hometown: Grand Rapids, Mich.
Award received/date: Good Conduct Medal/March 1
Other Awards: NUC, Nation Defense Service Medal, GWOTSM

Promotions

Sgt. Christopher Varcados, 27
Weather Forecaster
Company: Meteorology and Oceanography,
Marine Corps Air Facility
Hometown: Houston, Texas
Promotion Date: March 1
Awards: NAM, National Defense, Good Conduct, GWOTEM, GWOTSM, Presidential Unit Citation, Combat Action Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Citation

Lance Cpl. Brandon L. Blazer, 20
Hand Lineman
Air Rescue and Fire Fighting,
Marine Corps Air Facility
Hometown: Dayton, Ohio
Promotion Date: March 1
Awards: National Defense, GWOTSM, Letter of Appreciation



1st Lt. Tito M. Jones

Sgt. Arthur J. Sanchez, a martial arts instructor for Marine Forces Pacific, taught the Thailand Border Patrol Police proper knife techniques during Baker-Torch training in Udon Thani, Thailand.

THAILAND, From A-1

encounter.

During the first two weeks of the course, students were introduced to the basics of Marine Corps marksmanship.

According to Sgt. Ieremia K. Pau, a marksmanship instructor at the course, the students’ improvements were amazing.

“We’ve seen a huge difference from day one,” said Pau. “When we first came out here, we pushed safety, safety, safety! They now can tell you all the safety rules and conditions. They’ve progressed and gotten a lot more proficient in everything they do.”

Once students were familiar and more comfortable with their weapons, it was time to move on to the more advanced training.

Because small-unit tactics and close-quarters battle skills were a focal point of the training, students were challenged with many scenarios, including counter narcotics, hostage rescue and vehicle assaults.

“We came out here to teach them special reaction-team tactics,” said 1st Lt. Tito M. Jones, a Provost Marshals Office operations officer for Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii. “Because of the needs of the course, we needed to bring Marines with specific backgrounds in these fields.”

According to Jones, the Marines provided a baseline of training for the BPP, which they can use in the future to train other BPP units. The students now have confidence in everything they do and have absorbed the information very well.

During some training missions, the 10-man units would assault “shooting houses” specifically designed to test their skills at entering and maneuvering throughout a building to reach their objective. Marines within the house were role-playing as bad guys and would engage with simulated 9 mm pistols, which shot BB pellets.

Along with the field training they received, the students also had a lot of classroom work in preparation of their missions. Translators were present at all times during the training to break the language barrier between instructors and students.

Duangjai Vasantana, a flight attendant for Gulf Air, was one of four translators who assisted during the Baker-Torch training.

“This is the first time I’ve done anything like this,” she said.

“I wanted to try something new, and this seemed like a great opportunity. At first, it took a little while to understand some of the Marine Corps terminology and slang, such as ‘negative’ means ‘no.’ Once we understood it though, we were able to translate without having to ask too many questions. I learned a lot about the Marines and the way they stick together, and I admire their teamwork.”

The students were presented black T-shirts with the slogan “U.S. Marine Corps trained unit” and wore them proudly each day to class.

Intelligence officer for the BPP and Baker-Torch student, Capt. Chanchai Phoncharoen, was extremely appreciative about the training he and his fellow officers were receiving.

“Working with the U.S. Marines has been great training,” he said. “We have been very impressed by the professionalism of all the instructors. This is my first time training with them and would like to again in the future. We all really appreciate the opportunity.”

CSSG-3: Unit builds on training from Hawaii Combined Arms Exercise



Pfc. Roger L. Nelson

Marines assigned to Maintenance Company, CSSG-3, aim their M16-A2 service rifles at opposing team members, during a combat version of “capture the flag.” This event gave the Marines an opportunity to use their basic rifleman skills and become better combat prepared with their weapons.

From A-1

According to Warrant Officer Sidney D. Hart, platoon commander, Maintenance Company, CSSG-3, the objective of the training was to get Marines combat ready, not only through the rigors of annual training, but through added courses of instruction and field-training experience.

This wasn’t the first time CSSG-3 performed this type of exercise. They recently took their training ideas to the Big Island during the Hawaii Combined Arms Exercise.

“This was the first time I

experienced the training at this scale,” said Raica. “I didn’t go to the Hawaii Combined Arms Exercise, so this was new for me. I think more units need to perform training like this.”

“Our focus is small-unit leadership,” said Oliva. “On a day-to-day basis, we fix what is broken. That is what Maintenance Company does. We don’t get a lot of training; besides the annual training all Marines receive. We wanted more rifle and real-war, scenario-type training. That is why we focus on small-unit leadership. We look to the non-commissioned officers to take on leadership abilities in the field just as they do on a day-to-day basis. They took charge and the training went well.”

The Marines of CSSG-3 intend to continue implementing real-war, scenario-

based training into quarterly sustainment instruction.

“Each time we perform this training, we build on it,” said Hart. “We learn what works and what needs work, and we implement that into the picture the next time we perform the training.”

Although the Marines continue to learn new procedures each time they train, the main objective for the Marines participating has remained the same as when it was first implemented.

“We hope that the Marines walk away with training they can use in a real-life situation overseas,” said Hart, a Tampa, Fla. native. “The training is based on real-life scenarios and that is what we hope it is used for. If one Marine applies this training to one day, directly or indirectly, save another Marine’s life, then we’ve fulfilled our objective.”

Rollin’

Marines from Combat Assault Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, roll ashore Fort Hase Beach, March 18, in an amphibious assault vehicle. The Marines demonstrated how the vehicles are capable of quick and smooth travel through water and on land for a Taiwanese Chief of Staff, who recently purchased more than 30 AAVs.

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner



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HMH-463 flies high on island of Maui

Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

Marines of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 were tasked March 24 with the responsibility of transporting personnel to the top of Haleakala — a height of approximately 9,600 feet.

The squadron was originally tasked by Marine Aircraft Group 24 to provide aerial support for a delegation from congress, according to Major Michael A. Stroud, assistant operations officer, HMH-463. Earlier that week, Marines from Heavy Marine Helicopter Squadron 362 had taken the senators around Oahu to see some of the space observation facilities on island. This time, the trip was to the island of Maui.

“The task was to pick up the senators at the Pacific Disaster Coordination Center on Maui and transport them up to the top of Haleakala to the Air Force’s Optical Space Surveillance,” explained Stroud, a Salt Lake City, Utah native. “The senators were from the states of Alabama, Texas and Colorado.”

According to Stroud, there is a lot of coordination involved in order to make certain that transport from one point to another is successful. The plan included one original aircraft plus back-up aircraft to ensure that there was always alternative air transport available.

“The Marines worked very hard to make sure the helos were cleaned up and running well,” said the Brigham Young graduate. “It’s not like flying troops around, they’re civilians and our elected officials, and the Marines downstairs did an excellent job paying attention to the details that make a big difference.”

Coordination with the Air Force on Maui also had to be worked to ensure flight schedules were correct and to make sure that there were landing sites available for the helicopters.

“There was no pre-designated landing spot for the helicopters,” said Stroud. “We came out a day before, planned the route and landing zones, and conducted a rehearsal to ensure the mission was safe and that all possible options had been considered.”

The trip to Haleakala created a great opportunity for Pegasus’ flight crews — to fly and land a CH-53D helicopter at a height just under 10,000 feet, something the crews do

not get to do on a daily basis. In an environment such as the one at the top of Haleakala, very careful weight and balance computations must be done to ensure sufficient power is available. As a result, the amount of fuel that the aircraft is able to carry as well as the weight of the passengers (cargo) must be well planned. Therefore, to complete the mission safely, the crew had to be very watchful of the fuel on board and total aircraft weight.

“The fuel calculations we made were perfect,” said Stroud. “All of our prior planning paid great dividends and the entire flight was executed safely.” After spending time at the Optical Space Surveillance station, the senators were picked up and returned safely.



Senators from Alabama, Texas and Colorado return to the CH-53D Sea Stallion, manned by members of HMH-463 after their tour of the Optical Space Surveillance atop Haleakala volcano.

Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

DUIs are career killers

*Editor's Note: Per the commanding general of MCB Hawaii, those arrested for driving under the influence (DUI), driving while intoxicated or drug-related offenses shall be publicized in the **Hawaii Marine**.*

- March 24, Sgt. Robert E. Downing II of PACOM, J-642. Driving under the influence, with a blood alcohol content of .15 percent.
- March 25, a civilian contractor. DUI with a BAC of .24 percent.
- March 26, Pfc. Jose F. Sanmiguelgomez of 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment. DUI with a BAC of .09 percent.

You Drink.
You Drive.



You Lose.

Alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes kill someone every 31 minutes and nonfatally injure someone every two minutes.
— National Highway Traffic Safety Administration



Pfc. Roger L. Nelson
Sgt. Khanh L. Nguyen (left) looks over Cpl. Erric R. Hopkins’ shoulder as he adjusts the sights on the howitzer’s M137 panoramic telescope, March 15.

DoD, From A-1

And, according to the admiral, integrating the joint warfighting capabilities of the military has defined DoD transformation efforts.

“The process and product of change we’re trying to bring here is to make our forces more integrated, more coherently integrated, so they can operate across a broad range of mission sets: peace-keeping, peacemaking, contingency operations, peace support, major combat operations, small-scale contingencies — you name it,” he said.

“We found that the sum of all of the individual components within the Defense Department ... when you integrate all of these in a coherent way ... is far greater than what each of the individual parts would add up to. That’s what we call integration.”

That equation seems to have added up, as Giambastiani emphasized integration efforts among services has been successful during joint operations in Iraq.

The admiral used the November 2004 battle to take back control of Fallujah as an example. He pointed out that the fighting there consisted of Marine expeditionary forces, two Army brigade combat teams, and five battalions of Iraq army and security forces, as well as Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps aviation units.

“This was a very close-packed area, an urban area, and they were conducting joint operations down to the absolute lowest level,” he noted. “If you’re a soldier, Sailor, airman or Marine, and you are conducting an operation, and let’s say you need a target taken out, you don’t much care who takes out that target as long as the mission gets accomplished. That is the definition, in my view, of jointness.”

That definition has an important meaning within DoD, particularly from an operational standpoint, where in the past two years the Pentagon created more joint task force headquarters than it did in the previous 10 years combined.

“And we are creating more of these JTF headquarters each and every year,” he added. The admiral pointed out that military training also has undergone important change.

“Before in the Defense Department, war games were essentially just done by services, and they would sprinkle in joint entities,” Giambastiani explained. Now, he said, fundamentally the services are cooperating and co-hosting war games with Joint Forces Command. “I am co-hosting with the chief of a service, a joint war game which the Army and the Joint Forces Command come together to play,” he said. “Primarily, the majority of people in it are actually joint.

“We do it with the Navy, we do it with the Marine Corps, we’ve done it with the Air Force, we’re doing it with agencies such as a National

Reconnaissance Office, we’ve done it with other combatant commanders,” he said. “It’s pretty darn significant.”

More jointness and integration is only part of the transformation process within DoD — a beginning and not an end to the constant process of change for the 21st century, the admiral said.

“I see us moving in the future to this coherently integrated force that is mutually interdependent, that allows us to collaborate in a way that we just haven’t been able to describe the power of to date,” Giambastiani said. “To allow us to achieve what we call ‘outcomes on the battlefield,’ or outcomes in the case of contingency operations, or post-major combat, allow us to achieve outcomes which create success for the United States and our coalition and allied partners.”

Still, he added, there is “a lot of work to do yet, a long way to go.”

1/12, From A-1

Bowman explained. “However, you really can’t know what it’s like until you actually participate in a live-fire exercise and see what you’re doing.”

While the unit can’t actually fire howitzer rounds on Okinawa, the Marines still need to stay proficient, according to Bowman.

“We need to remain mission capable,” he said. “You can go through classes as much as you want, but until you go through the [practical application], it might not click in.”

“It just takes practice,” said Cpl. Erric R. Hopkins, a cannoneer with the battery. “Once you get used to it, you’re in your comfort zone.”



Hopkins said he had to learn all of the jobs associated with firing a howitzer because he is a non-commissioned officer and needs to be trained as a section chief.

However, when the Marines had free time, they were also learning how to perform each other’s different duties, according to Bowman.

“You never know if your fellow Marine is going to be killed in combat,” he said.

“We want to make sure everyone can confidently step up and take the next Marine’s job in case anything like that happens.”

The battery makes an effort to conduct training often, so the Marines are always prepared, according to Bowman.

“They need to constantly train because the things we do here, we will do one day in combat,” he added. “Our brothers are already doing it in Iraq.”